

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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O R 041425Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TOCDUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4934

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

S E C R E T NAIROBI 7691

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: KXE-3

TUJLICPFOR XA IS KE QX

SUBJECT: ISRAELI DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH KENYA

REF: A) NAIROBI 2131; B) STATE

209708

1. AS REPORTED REF A ISRAEL HAS HAD SENIOR DIPLOMAT,
COUNSELOR ZEEV DOVER, IN CHARGE OF ISRAELI INTEREST
SECTION

OF DANISH

EMBASSY, NAIROBI SINCE EARLY 1975 IN
ANTICIPATION OF POSSIBILITY OF RESUMING DIPLOMATIC
RELATIONS WITH KENYA. DCM HAS HAD OCCASIONAL CON-
TACTS WITH DOVER SINCE LATTER'S ARRIVAL. FOLLOWING
RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS RAISED REF B BASED ON WHAT DOVER
HAS TOLD US AS WELL AS ON OUR INDEPENDENT KNOWLEDGE OF
ATTITUDES OF TOP KENYAN OFFICIALS TOWARDS ISRAEL.

2. WE BELIEVE THERE IS FAIRLY GOOD POSSIBILITY OF
NORMALIZING ISRAELI-KENYAN RELATIONS NOW THAT INTERIM
EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI SINAI AGREEMENT HAS BEEN INITIALED,

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PROVIDED THAT AT LEAST TWO OTHER BLACK AFRICAN COUNTRIES

WOULD BE WILLING TO RESUME DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL AT SAME TIME AS KENYA. WHILE DOVER RECENTLY TOLD DCM THAT HE HAD NOT EXPLICITLY SOUNDED OUT KENYANS ON ISSUE OF RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, HE SAID THAT HE HAD SUCCEEDED IN ESTABLISHING GOOD RELATIONS WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL NJONJO AND PRESIDENTIAL PERMANENT SECRETARY KARIITHI, BOTH OF WHOM ARE SYMPATHETIC TO ISRAELI INTERESTS AND APPRECIATIVE OF ROLE FORMERLY PLAYED BY ISRAEL IN KENYA. SHOULD HE USE ONE OF THESE TWO OFFICIALS FOR APPROACH TO GOK ON RECOGNITION ISSUE, WE THINK THAT PROPOSAL WOULD RECEIVE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION FROM PRESIDENT KENYATTA, PROVIDED HE COULD BE CERTAIN OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES WOULD MAKE SIMILAR MOVE SO AS TO TAKE SOME OF STING OUT OF INEVITABLE CRITICISM BY ARAB COUNTRIES AS WELL AS BY CERTAIN OTHER BLACK AFRICAN COUNTRIES.

3. IN VIEW OF PREYCVKE OF WELL-ESTABLISHED SENIOR ISRAELI DIPLOMAT IN KENYA, WE WOULD SEE NO UTILITY IN U.S. DEMARCHE IN SUPPORT OF NORMALIZATION OF KENYAN-ISRAELI RELATIONS. IN FACT, U.S. DEMARCHE COULD EVEN PROVE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE BY GIVING PRO-ARAB FACTION WITHIN FOREIGN MINISTRY AMMUNITION TO OPPOSE RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL.

4. WE BELIEVE DEMARCHE BY DOVER TO ATTORNEY GENERAL OR PRESIDENTIAL PERMANENT SECRETARY WOULD BE BEST WAY TO PROCEED.
MARSHALL

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NNN

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